

# REPORT OF MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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THE International Committee on Planned Parenthood met in London on August 29th and 30th. Present were Mrs. Margaret Sanger, representing the planned parenthood movement of America ; Mrs. Elise Ottesen-Jensen, President of the Swedish National League of Sex Education, and the British members, Mrs. Pyke and Dr. Helena Wright, representing the Family Planning Association. Unfortunately, neither of the representatives of the Dutch Society for Sexual Reform were able to attend this year. Dr. Abraham Stone, Director of the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau of New York, was also absent, having had to return to the United States before the committee met. Professor Frank Lorimer, who represented the Planned Parenthood Federation of America at the 1949 and 1950 meetings, has now resigned from the committee so as to devote more time to his work with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and the P.P.F.A. has been asked to appoint a successor.

Two representatives from Germany, Dr. Anne-Marie Durand-Wever, of Berlin, and Frau Ilse Lederer, of the Kassel Marriage Guidance Clinic, were invited to London to report on the present position in Germany, where the legal restrictions regarding contraception are still very complicated. It is hoped to reproduce these reports in a later issue of the REVIEW.

One of the main purposes of this meeting was to begin definite preparations for a permanent world organization and to consider proposals for the holding of international congresses. Particular thought was given to the organization of an International Congress on Population and Family Planning in India, where the recent pronouncements of Prime Minister Pandit Nehru in favour of family limitation, and the inclusion in the five-year

plan of the National Planning Commission of specific recommendations for the control of population, are being vigorously supported by the All India Women's Conference.

New organizations for family planning are springing up all over India, and every State and Union is asked to consider how it can popularize birth control. Contraceptive advice is now to be given as part of the health services of the Corporation of Madras, and of the Municipality of Berhampur, Orissa. Free municipal clinics have been operating for some time in Bombay, Poona, Bangalore, and in Hyderabad State, all of which now have active family planning associations.\* A special clinic is being opened for patients attending the Tuberculosis Institute in Madras, where a Family Planning Association has been set up under the presidency of Mrs. Raksha Saran. A similar association has been started in Delhi.

All these various groups are affiliated to the Bombay Family Planning Association, which has reconstituted itself as the Family Planning Association of India. This national organization is sponsoring an All India Family Planning Conference in Bombay from November 30th to December 2nd, at which Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, founder of the Indian Institute of Population Studies, is to preside.

Also of significance to India is the International Conference on Social Work, which will take place in Madras from December 16th to 22nd, 1952. Several requests have been made to the organizing committee for a session on population, which led to the proposal that an International Congress on Population and Family Planning should be held either immediately before or following the International Conference on Social Work.

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\*Planned Parenthood in India, *Eugenics Review*, Vol. XLIII, No. 1.

The International Committee on Planned Parenthood feels that the growth of the planned parenthood movement in India is now sufficiently advanced for encouragement to be given to the Family Planning Association of India to follow its national conference with the organization of the proposed International Congress on Population and Family Planning in 1952. The International Committee on Planned Parenthood will gladly co-operate in sending such delegations from Western countries as may be needed and requested by the Indian central committee.

The invitation of the Swedish National League of Sex Education to hold an international congress in Sweden in 1953, when the Swedish League will celebrate its twentieth anniversary, was gratefully accepted.

With a view to securing broad regional representation the International Committee on Planned Parenthood decided to set up a liaison committee of representatives from the many other countries which now have societies and groups for population problems and control. This liaison committee will, it is hoped, assist in the formation of a strong world organization.

In addition to the present member-countries (America, Britain, Holland and Sweden) the following countries have active organizations: Australia, Canada, Finland, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Africa. State or municipal birth-control services exist in Bermuda, Kuala Lumpur (Malaya) and Puerto Rico, and the countries of Austria, Ceylon, Denmark, Germany and Norway are trying to rebuild their pre-war organizations. Elsewhere, in Barbados, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Pakistan, and in the

South Pacific Islands, educational and organizational work is just beginning.

The decision taken at last year's meeting of the International Committee on Planned Parenthood to proceed towards the setting up of a world information bureau in New York was reconsidered, and a preference expressed to have only one international information centre, as at present in London. It was agreed, however, to ask the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau of New York, in consultation with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, to appoint a committee to consider the possibility of publishing an international news bulletin which would disseminate information collected by the International Committee on Planned Parenthood and by its liaison committee.

The International Committee on Planned Parenthood, distressed to learn of the prevalence of abortion in Germany and Japan, and in other countries, passed a resolution urging the Occupation Forces, in particular, to stress the importance of education in contraceptive technique so as to ensure that recourse to abortion as a measure of spacing births would no longer be necessary, thereby improving standards of health. Such a programme is recognized to be of primary social and economic importance throughout the world to-day.

The Committee resolved to continue its efforts to interest medical research and other bodies in the universal need for a simple, effective and cheap contraceptive.

In conclusion, a unanimous vote of thanks was moved to the *Eugenics Society*, which has continued during the past year to make available, rent free, accommodation to the International Committee on Planned Parenthood.